

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700207

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

The Needles Field Office (NFO) lies within one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. Residents rely on recreational resources managed by an office with a small staff, responsible for the largest acreage (3.2 million acres) administered within the California Desert District. The NFO is striving to meet increase visitor usage demands by taking a proactive approach.

The California Desert Protection Act of 1994 designated 18 wilderness areas (1.4 million acres) within the NFO resource area. Recreationists use 3,200 miles of backcountry roads, most only accessible by high-clearance 4WD vehicles, all terrain vehicles (ATV), utility trail vehicles (UTV), and motorcycles. Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation in Needles goes far beyond traditional programs. Areas of high volume OHV use present special challenges to staff primarily responsible for protection of natural and cultural resources, and public safety. Intrusions into wilderness occur on a regular basis, a major concern for the NFO staff.

The Needles Ground Operations grant (GO) would focus on the development and maintenance of the OHV program within the NFO. The NFO GO grant request can be broken down into four categories of work:

General Facility Maintenance includes staff and volunteers cleaning, painting, and the maintenance and repair of several dispersed OHV camping and picnic sites, two Vault toilets, ten Kiosk structures and panels, four Portal signs, and forty Gateway signs. Traffic counters, and surveillance cameras are essential tools for collecting data, useful for visitation and enforcement.

Graffiti Removal would focus on cleaning graffiti from recreational facilities. Any natural resource sites with graffiti would be individually identified and then be analyzed and evaluated through a site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. A portable pressure-washing unit and hand pump sprayers are needed to remove graffiti.

Signing/Interpretation work continues on implementation of the California Desert District (CDD) Route Signing Strategy and Plan (attached). Staff, assisted by two seasonal park rangers and/or short term contracted conservation crews, and volunteers would continue to install route numbers, regulatory, and gateway signs throughout the NFO, and develop a soils protocol to collect route and soil data on primary OHV routes. Stickers, decals, fiberglass, and metal (break-a-way) signpost, and hardware required for signage. A specialized high clearance 4X4 vehicle is required to access remote and difficult designated routes for signing and monitoring. A highway legal vehicle would allow for point A to point B operation along routes increasing productivity. A non-highway legal unit would require a trailer for transportation and only allow work on small-localized projects because the unit would be required to return to be transported back on the highway. In addition, the extreme summer time temperatures limit the ability to utilize an OHV for maintenance for 25 % of the year. BLM and seasonal employees will be assigned safety gear and receive certified ATV safety training before allowed to drive or ride an UTV or ATV.

Resource management/Operational control urgently needs traffic counters, surveillance cameras, and other monitoring equipment used by the recreation and resource branch to assess recreational uses and to monitor natural resources. Grant funds, will provide a weather station and photo surveillance system at Ivanpah Dry Lake. This system allows monitoring of the lakebed condition and OHV intrusion. Selected data and images would be available on a public website.

Requested funds cover labor, volunteer support, contracts, materials/supplies, equipment expenses, equipment purchase, and miscellaneous costs associated with GO targeted projects. Funding pays a small portion of staff's salary, while managing OHV use and will pay for two seasonal park rangers and/or short-term contracted conservation crews, and provide support for volunteer costs, tasked with multiple projects. Radios and satellite emergency locator beacons enhance personnel safety by providing communications with dispatch while in the field and away from a vehicle. Management will install the mobile units and issue the handheld radios and emergency locator beacon units to staff and seasonal personnel, as required for field safety and projects needs. Funds would purchase a new generator/air compressor/welder unit for the one maintenance vehicle. Purchase replacement hand, power and combination tools and

kits for two maintenance vehicles, the shop, and provide needed maintenance and new tires for the Bobcat tractor.

Not funding this Ground Operations grant will result in continued OHV intrusion into wilderness and critical species habitat areas. The GO projects will provide a unique and needed resource, allowing the public to enjoy the incredible natural lands found in the NFO resource area.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

Focused on dispersed recreational activities and a wide-ranging spectrum of recreationists who rely on dispersed backcountry routes of travel in the pursuit of various recreational experiences, the Needles Field Office (NFO) goes far beyond a traditional Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) program. Ground Operations (GO) is collaborated by the OHV safety and environmental education outreach and the Take It Outside (TIO) programs taught to schools and community groups. Experiences are dependent upon backcountry routes to access wilderness areas, opportunities for hunting, rock hounding, wildlife viewing, sightseeing, primitive camping, and exploration of our western heritage.

Numerous areas receive a high volume of OHV use, typically located adjacent to rural areas, major highways, or open areas, many managed by neighboring field offices. High OHV use areas are the Sacramento Mountains, Chemehuevi Wash, Mesquite Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the Dead Mountains and the Whipple Mountains. Each location presents unique challenges to staff whose primary responsibilities while managing OHV activity in these areas includes the protection of natural and cultural resources, as well as public safety.

Completion of the route designation and travel management plan amendments finalized route designation throughout the CDD and gives regulatory authority to sign its open route network. The plan amendments and filled staff vacancies have placed the NFO in a significantly stronger position to resolve problems than it has been in the last five to ten years.

The 3200 mile dispersed back-country route system serves as the cornerstone for the NFO recreation program, providing the blueprint and direction needed to design and plan a comprehensive recreational program identifying and addressing present and future OHV and non-OHV recreational needs.

The Ground Operations (GO) grant relates to OHV recreation by providing route identification sign needs included in this proposal to help to resolve the lack of signing problem. Provide maintenance to, and remove Graffiti from facilities. Landscape sites with graffiti would be identified, then be individually analyzed and evaluated through a site-specific NEPA document. Solvents, soaps, and cleaning compounds would be used only as necessary to remove graffiti. Accelerant compounds like Permeon would only be used when needed to help restore the natural patina appearance to landscapes.

Additionally, the grant would provide seasonal staffing and/or short-term conservation crews to install the signs, assist with maintenance and provide a higher level of BLM presence to the visitors. The 2009 GO grant will focus on the Needles South portion of the resource area to include recreation sites, Wilderness Areas, and primary routes south of Interstate 40, and one site in the north. Well-known routes are the East Mojave Heritage Trail, Chemehuevi Wash, Turtle Mountain Road, Sunflower Springs Road, and Needles to Parker Wagon Road, MWD Powerline Road, Eagle Pass, Crestview Trail, and Monumental Pass. Popular recreation sites are Bonanza Springs, Amboy Crater in the south, and in the north Ivanpah Dry Lake and Horse Thief Springs. The GO grant request would provide support and coordination of OHV Recreation projects, ensuring that they remain an integral priority with the NFO.

The Environmental Education Program supports ground operations by developing and updating on-the-ground interpretive panels addressing OHV regulations, desert safety, and environmentally responsible OHV use to educate the visiting public.

C. Size of the Project

The NFO recreation branch has segmented the resource area in to six sectors and two geographical areas divided along Interstate 40 identified as Needles North (NN) or Needles South (NS). Focusing on a small portion of the field office at a time allows staff to maximize use of time and materials. Management prioritized the sectors by visitor usage and the number of OHV incursions occurring on a regular basis and identified the Needles South as the first focus area. An estimated two-thirds of the 3200 miles of routes are contained in the NS designation and provides several major points of interest, like Amboy Crater, Bonanza Springs, and Historical Route 66.

Priority for signage is the area surrounding the Turtle Mountains, Stepladder Mountains, Dead Mountains Wilderness, and the eastern half of Ward Valley, Sacramento Mountains, and Piute Valley areas, which receive increased visitor numbers during the winter mainly from people seeking a warmer climate for the season. The project would sign designated routes, provide maintenance to kiosks, and barriers in the above listed areas and for the Whipple and Chemehuevi areas. Remove Graffiti from the kiosks and from facilities at Amboy Crater and other facilities throughout the NFO and identify individual natural resource sites along 60 miles of U.S. Highway 95 from Vidal Junction to Interstate 40.

Routes and facilities located to the west of Ward Valley, include, Kiosks, a vault toilet, picnic sites, Bonanza Springs, and Amboy Crater. Activities would also install several gateway signs spread throughout the 3.3 million acres and would clean, repaired, and remove graffiti where needed.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

The Needles Field Office is located in the far eastern corner of southern California, in the tri-state area, bordered on the north by the Nevada State line, on the East by the Arizona State line along the Colorado River.

The Resource Area encompasses over 3.3 million acres of public lands and the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 designated 18 Wilderness Areas (approximately 1.4 million acres). Many Wilderness Areas have numerous routes that divide, cross, and parallel wilderness boundaries. Most routes are only accessible by high-clearance four-wheel drive vehicles, ATV, UTV, and motorcycles equipped for riding on unimproved roads.

Needles is earning a reputation as the destination for dispersed OHV touring with over 3,200 miles of designated open routes of travel. Public OHV Guide Books identify several historic OHV touring routes located in the NFO including the East Mojave Heritage Trail, the Mojave Road, and the Needles to Parker Wagon Road. Not seeing another vehicle in the Needles backcountry is common for the dispersed OHV touring and camping public.

The Amboy Crater (a National Natural Landmark) is located on Historic Route 66 and is a popular destination for visitors driving Off Highway or street vehicles. This site provides the public hiking trails, interpretive information, picnic areas, and a vault toilet. Horse Thief Springs Camp is located just off Excelsior Mine Road, two miles south of the Tecopa Pass in the Kingston Mountains. This site offers four campsites with picnic tables and fire rings, a mule shoe pit, a vault toilet, a panoramic view with a night sky full of diamonds you can reach out and touch.

Ivanpah Dry Lake is the premier destination for wind powered land sailing crafts in the United States. The lakebed is closed to vehicles to protect the nature of the lakebed; and a permit is required by wind enthusiasts to access the staging sites along the edge of the playa where wind recreationist launch their Land Sailing Crafts and Kite Buggies and Boards.

Needles offers extensive recreation opportunities to the public and almost every activity the public wants to do in the NFO requires a high clearance 4X4 OHV. Recreate in NFO area and feel the beat of "THE HEART OF THE MOJAVE!"

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

3 **Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[NFO Recreation Areas and Opportunities](#)

[OHV Route System Phase 1](#)

4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Attachments:

[California Desert District Sign Plan](#)

[Detailed description of public comments affect all NFO Grants](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: BLM - Needles Field Office
 Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - Needles Field Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Ground Operations	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Needles Field Office (NFO) lies within one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. Residents rely on recreational resources managed by an office with a small staff, responsible for the largest acreage (3.2 million acres) administered within the California Desert District. The NFO is striving to meet increase visitor usage demands by taking a proactive approach.</p> <p>The California Desert Protection Act of 1994 designated 18 wilderness areas (1.4 million acres) within the NFO resource area. Recreationists use 3,200 miles of backcountry roads, most only accessible by high-clearance 4WD vehicles, all terrain vehicles (ATV), utility trail vehicles (UTV), and motorcycles. Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation in Needles goes far beyond traditional programs. Areas of high volume OHV use present special challenges to staff primarily responsible for protection of natural and cultural resources, and public safety. Intrusions into wilderness occur on a regular basis, a major concern for the NFO staff.</p> <p>The Needles Ground Operations grant (GO) would focus on the development and maintenance of the OHV program within the NFO. The NFO GO grant request can be broken down into four categories of work:</p> <p>General Facility Maintenance includes staff and volunteers cleaning, painting, and the maintenance and repair of several dispersed OHV camping and picnic sites, two Vault toilets, ten Kiosk structures and panels, four Portal signs, and forty Gateway signs. Traffic counters, and surveillance cameras are essential tools for collecting data, useful for visitation and enforcement.</p> <p>Graffiti Removal would focus on cleaning graffiti from recreational facilities. Any natural resource sites with graffiti would be individually identified and then be analyzed and evaluated through a site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. A portable pressure-washing unit and hand pump sprayers are needed to remove graffiti.</p> <p>Signing/Interpretation work continues on implementation of the California Desert District (CDD) Route Signing Strategy and Plan (attached). Staff, assisted by two seasonal park rangers and/or short term contracted conservation crews, and volunteers would continue to install route numbers, regulatory, and gateway signs throughout the NFO, and develop a soils protocol to collect route and soil data on primary OHV routes. Stickers, decals, fiberglass, and metal (break-a-way) signpost, and hardware required for signage. A specialized high clearance 4X4 vehicle is required to access remote and difficult designated routes for signing and monitoring. A highway legal vehicle would allow for point A to point B operation along routes increasing productivity. A non-highway legal unit would require a trailer for transportation and only allow work on small-localized projects because the unit would be required to return to be transported back on the highway. In addition, the extreme summer time temperatures limit the ability to utilize an OHV for maintenance for 25 % of the year. BLM and seasonal employees will be assigned safety gear and receive certified ATV safety training before allowed to drive or ride an UTV or ATV.</p> <p>Resource management/Operational control urgently needs traffic counters, surveillance cameras, and other monitoring equipment used by the recreation and resource branch to assess recreational uses and to monitor natural resources. Grant funds, will provide a weather station and photo surveillance system at Ivanpah Dry Lake. This system allows monitoring of the lakebed condition and OHV intrusion. Selected data and images would be available on a public website.</p>		

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	<p>Requested funds cover labor, volunteer support, contracts, materials/supplies, equipment expenses, equipment purchase, and miscellaneous costs associated with GO targeted projects. Funding pays a small portion of staff's salary, while managing OHV use and will pay for two seasonal park rangers and/or short-term contracted conservation crews, and provide support for volunteer costs, tasked with multiple projects. Radios and satellite emergency locator beacons enhance personnel safety by providing communications with dispatch while in the field and away from a vehicle. Management will install the mobile units and issue the handheld radios and emergency locator beacon units to staff and seasonal personnel, as required for field safety and projects needs. Funds would purchase a new generator/air compressor/welder unit for the one maintenance vehicle. Purchase replacement hand, power and combination tools and kits for two maintenance vehicles, the shop, and provide needed maintenance and new tires for the Bobcat tractor.</p> <p>Not funding this Ground Operations grant will result in continued OHV intrusion into wilderness and critical species habitat areas. The GO projects will provide a unique and needed resource, allowing the public to enjoy the incredible natural lands found in the NFO resource area.</p>
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Maintenance Worker	3120.000	29.000	HRS	45,240.00	45,240.00	90,480.00
	Other-Seasonal Park Rangers	2080.000	24.000	HRS	49,920.00	0.00	49,920.00
	Other-Volunteer Time	1350.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	27,000.00	27,000.00
	Other-Management / NEPA Notes : Management/NEPA – The Needles Field Manager and Planning and Environmental Coordinator spend these estimated hours per year in support of OHV Ground Operations programs. Activities involved in reviewing project proposals, tracking labor, project and contract expenses, reviewing interpretive panels, brochures and other materials to insure conformance to laws, and regulations. Costs are match funds because they are specifically associated to the OHV Ground Operations program. Support for the program at this level greatly enhances the program.	300.000	51.000	HRS	0.00	15,300.00	15,300.00
	Other-Adminastrative Branch Chief Notes : Branch Chief/Staff - This position spends these estimated hours per year in support of OHV Ground Operations program. Activities involved in reviewing project proposals, tracking labor, project and contract expenses, reviewing interpretive panels,	500.000	36.000	HRS	0.00	18,000.00	18,000.00

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brochures and other materials to insure conformance to laws, and regulations. Costs are match funds because they are specifically associated to the OHV Ground Operations program. Support for the program at this level greatly enhances the program.						
Other-Adminastrative Staff Notes : Branch Chief/Staff - This position spends these estimated hours per year in support of OHV Ground Operations program. Activities involved in reviewing project proposals, tracking labor, project and contract expenses, reviewing interpretive panels, brochures and other materials to insure conformance to laws, and regulations. Costs are match funds because they are specifically associated to the OHV Ground Operations program. Support for the program at this level greatly enhances the program.	500.000	35.000	HRS	0.00	17,500.00	17,500.00
Other-Resource Staff Notes : Branch Chief/Staff - This position spends these estimated hours per year in support of OHV Ground Operations program. Activities involved in reviewing project proposals, tracking labor, project and contract expenses, reviewing interpretive panels, brochures and other materials to insure conformance to laws, and regulations. Costs are match funds because they are specifically associated to the OHV Ground Operations program. Support for the program at this level greatly enhances the program.	800.000	48.000	HRS	9,216.00	29,184.00	38,400.00
Other-Resource Branch Chief Notes : Branch Chief/Staff - This position spends these estimated hours per year in support of OHV Ground Operations program. Activities involved in reviewing project proposals, tracking labor, project and contract expenses, reviewing interpretive panels, brochures and other materials to insure conformance to laws, and regulations. Costs are match funds because they are specifically associated to the OHV Ground Operations program. Support for the program at this level greatly enhances the program.	200.000	51.000	HRS	0.00	10,200.00	10,200.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Recreation Staff	2000.000	48.000	HRS	23,040.00	72,960.00	96,000.00
	Other-Recreation Branch Chief Notes : Branch Chief - This position spends these estimated hours per year in support of OHV Ground Operations program. Activities involved in reviewing project proposals, tracking labor, project and contract expenses, reviewing interpretive panels, brochures and other materials to insure conformance to laws, and regulations. Costs are match funds because they are specifically associated to the OHV Ground Operations program. Support for the program at this level greatly enhances the program.	600.000	51.000	HRS	0.00	30,600.00	30,600.00
	Other-LE Rangers Notes : LE Rangers –The estimated hours per year that the five NFO LE Rangers spend in non-patrol/enforcement activities in support the Ground Operations program. Activities involved in reviewing project proposals, labor on projects and community relations, reviewing interpretive panels, brochures and other materials, which are not regular LE Patrol activities. Costs are match funds because they are specifically associated to the OHV Ground Operations program. Support for the program at this level greatly enhances the program.	750.000	48.000	HRS	0.00	36,000.00	36,000.00
	Total for Staff				127,416.00	301,984.00	429,400.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Conservation Crews Notes : Conservation Crews – Conservation crews are a proven efficient, economic and timely resource to accomplish a variety of tasks, including monitoring of plant and animals, water sources, soil inventories, and other project requiring labor-intensive needs.	1.000	10000.000	EA	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
	Other-GIS / Citrix Training (at office) Notes : GIS/Citrix – BLM uses GPS units to record geospatial data	1.000	10000.000	EA	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00

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	on routes, camp and picnic sites, areas of intrusion or disturbance, and perimeters of projects, habitat, and plant assemblages. The collected data is downloaded into mapping software called ESRI ArcView. This Mapping system and data for the BLM in California is stored in Citrix, housed in the State Office in Sacramento. BLM has a limited the number of GIS specialist and very few are in field offices so individual department specialists need to know how to use the mapping system. Providing GIS/Citrix training at the NFO provides the most cost effective method to accomplish this goal. Training in Needles would allow staff specialist from Resources, Recreation, and Law Enforcement all to attend instead of sending only one person to training. Mapping skills and knowledge of the data storage system would greatly enhance all programs and aspects of the NFO not just recreation.						
	Total for Contracts				20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Fiberglass Sign Post	300.000	20.000	EA	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
	Other-Break-a-way Metal Sign Post Kits Notes : Other – Break-a-way Metal sign Post - Kit includes an 3 foot base unit, 10 foot post unit, and connecting angle bolt, washes and nut.	200.000	65.000	SET	13,000.00	0.00	13,000.00
	Other-Agency Logo Decals Notes : Other – Agency Logo Decals – While reviewing this entry it was noticed that the unit quantity of 75 and the rate of \$8.00 were incorrect, but the total of the request was the correct amount of \$600 dollars. This reflects the correction of the unit quantity to 750 and the rate to \$0.80 causing no change to the total of the request.	750.000	0.800	EA	600.00	0.00	600.00
	Other-3" Number Decals Page Notes : Other – 3" Number Decals – There are 6 numbers per	400.000	9.000	EA	3,600.00	0.00	3,600.00

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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
page, 10 numbers 0 – 9 that is 40 pages per number for a total of 400 pages.						
Other-2" Letter Decals Page Notes : Other – 2" Letter Decals – Designations are Needles North (NN) or Needles South (NS) as divided by I-40. Two letters, "N" and "S", and there are 28 letters per page that is 100 pages per letter for a total of 200 pages.	200.000	9.000	EA	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00
Other-2" Letter Decal Books	10.000	354.000	EA	3,540.00	0.00	3,540.00
Other-Sign Stickers & Decals Notes : Wilderness, Open/Closed Route, Uses allowed/Prohibited, etc.	1.000	5000.000	EA	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Other-Miscellaneous Hardware	1.000	500.000	EA	500.00	0.00	500.00
Other-Hardware, T/R Fasteners	200.000	1.000	EA	200.00	0.00	200.00
Other-Solvents, Soaps, & Cleaning Suppli	1.000	500.000	EA	500.00	0.00	500.00
Other-Hand Pump Spraying Canisters	2.000	50.000	EA	100.00	0.00	100.00
Other-Miscellaneous Supplies	1.000	500.000	EA	500.00	0.00	500.00
Other-Cordless Drill	3.000	300.000	EA	900.00	0.00	900.00
Other-4.5" Angle Grinder	3.000	70.000	EA	210.00	0.00	210.00
Other-Pressure Washer Unit Notes : Includes Pressure washer, water tank, hose, and hardware to be installed in existing trailer.	1.000	850.000	PKG	850.00	0.00	850.00
Other-OHV Safety Gear	2.000	400.000	EA	800.00	0.00	800.00
Other-Hand Tools	3.000	800.000	EA	2,400.00	0.00	2,400.00
Other-Traffic Counters	10.000	500.000	EA	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Other-Wildlife Monitoring Cameras	5.000	400.000	EA	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00

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Other-Emergency Locator Beacon w 1yr Ser	7.000	400.000	EA	2,800.00	0.00	2,800.00
Other-HI-Lift Jack Notes : Item added after addressing public comments and re-evaluation of the project. The NFO anticipate that the vehicle would require addition aftermarket equipment to ensure safety and protection in rough terrain. A detail explanation of proposed changes to the Ground Operation project request and equipment needs is included in the General Application Tab, Public Review, Section C. Application Development as a result of Public Comments.	1.000	100.000	EA	100.00	0.00	100.00
Other-Locking Rear Storage Box Notes : Item added after addressing public comments and re-evaluation of the project. The NFO anticipate that the vehicle would require addition aftermarket equipment to ensure safe storage and protection of tools in rough terrain. A detail explanation of proposed changes to the Ground Operation project request and equipment needs is included in the General Application Tab, Public Review, Section C. Application Development as a result of Public Comments.	1.000	600.000	EA	600.00	0.00	600.00
Other-GPS Mount, Antenna, Accessories Notes : Item added after addressing public comments and re-evaluation of the project. The NFO anticipate that the vehicle would require addition aftermarket equipment that allowed hands free operation of the GPS unit and protection in rough terrain. To ensure accurate location and mapping data is collected and recorded staff use a GIS unit . A detail explanation of proposed changes to the Ground Operation project request and equipment needs is included in the General Application Tab, Public Review, Section C. Application Development as a result of Public Comments.	1.000	500.000	EA	500.00	0.00	500.00

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	Total for Materials / Supplies				51,500.00	0.00	51,500.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-Ford 150 PU 1/2TCrew	5000.000	0.320	MI	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
	Other-Ford 150 PU 1/2TCrew	2000.000	0.320	MI	0.00	640.00	640.00
	Other-Ford 550 FB2.5T 4wd DSL	5000.000	0.710	MI	0.00	3,550.00	3,550.00
	Other-Chev 2500 PU 3/4T EX 4wd	3000.000	0.320	MI	0.00	960.00	960.00
	Other-Bobcat Tractor (Maintenance)	1.000	500.000	YR	500.00	0.00	500.00
	Other-Bobcat Tractor (Tires)	4.000	500.000	SET	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
	Other-Tires	2.000	1300.000	SET	2,600.00	0.00	2,600.00
	Other-OHV Maintenance	2.000	1000.000	EA	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				5,100.00	8,750.00	13,850.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
	Other-Specialized High Clearance 4X4 Ve Notes : Item added after addressing public comments and re-evaluation of the project. The NFO removed the UTV and enclosed trailer from the grant proposal, a savings of \$30,000. Instead, the NFO proposes to purchase a short wheelbase high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle (likely a Jeep Wrangler Rubicon) as an addition to the NFO fleet to complete OHV route singing, monitoring, and visitor service patrol. The initial cost of the vehicle and equipment is \$35,000, five thousand more than the original request. However, the usable life span of the vehicle will be one and half to two times that of a UTV.	1.000	27000.000	EA	27,000.00	0.00	27,000.00
	Other-Rear Swingaway Tire Carrier Notes : Item added after addressing public comments and re-evaluation of the project. The NFO anticipate that the vehicle	1.000	1500.000	EA	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00

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would require addition aftermarket equipment to ensure safe storage and protection of two spare tires, a safety requirement for activities in rough terrain. A detail explanation of proposed changes to the Ground Operation project request and equipment needs is included in the General Application Tab, Public Review, Section C. Application Development as a result of Public Comments.						
Other-Air N Arc 3 in 1 Gen/Weld/Comp	1.000	6000.000	EA	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
Other-Hand Held Digitl Radios	8.000	1550.000	EA	12,400.00	0.00	12,400.00
Other-Weather Station Notes : Includes weather station, webcam, computer with wireless internet connection.	1.000	6000.000	EA	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
Other-Rocker Panel Rock Sliders Notes : Item added after addressing public comments and re-evaluation of the project. The NFO anticipate that the vehicle would require addition aftermarket equipment to ensure safety and protection of the vehicle in rough terrain. A detail explanation of proposed changes to the Ground Operation project request and equipment needs is included in the General Application Tab, Public Review, Section C. Application Development as a result of Public Comments.	1.000	1000.000	EA	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Other-Warn PowerPlant Winch w/ Mount Notes : Item added after addressing public comments and re-evaluation of the project. The NFO anticipate that the vehicle would require addition aftermarket equipment to ensure safety and protection of the vehicle in rough terrain. A detail explanation of proposed changes to the Ground Operation project request and equipment needs is included in the General Application Tab, Public Review, Section C. Application Development as a result of Public Comments.	1.000	1500.000	EA	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Needles Field Office
Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Mobile Digital Radio w/ Mounting K Notes : Item added after addressing public comments and re-evaluation of the project. The NFO anticipate that the short wheelbase high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle, would require a Mobile Digital Radio to provide communication with dispatch improving safety and protection to the public and staff . Additional units will update old analog radios now in vehicles to the new digital technology. Mounting the radio securely provides protection to the equipment in rough terrain. A detail explanation of proposed changes to the Ground Operation project request and equipment needs is included in the General Application Tab, Public Review, Section C. Application Development as a result of Public Comments.	6.000	2500.000	EA	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
	Total for Equipment Purchases				70,400.00	0.00	70,400.00
6	Others						
	Other-Travel & Training	4.000	200.000	DAY	800.00	0.00	800.00
7	Administrative Costs						
	Administrative Costs-Administrative Cost	1.000	20960.000	EA	20,960.00	0.00	20,960.00
	Total Program Expenses				296,176.00	310,734.00	606,910.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				296,176.00	310,734.00	606,910.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				296,176.00	310,734.00	606,910.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Needles Field Office
Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	127,416.00	301,984.00	429,400.00	Please see Ground Operations Attachments #4 Detailed description_Comment Affects_ground Operations.
2	Contracts	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	51,500.00	0.00	51,500.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	5,100.00	8,750.00	13,850.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	70,400.00	0.00	70,400.00	
6	Others	800.00	0.00	800.00	
7	Administrative Costs	20,960.00	0.00	20,960.00	
Total Program Expenses		296,176.00	310,734.00	606,910.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		296,176.00	310,734.00	606,910.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		296,176.00	310,734.00	606,910.00	

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APP # 700207

ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

The NFO Ground Operation (GO) project activities are covered in the attached California Conservation District Sign Policy and the Departmental Categorical Exclusion. Additionally, completion of the Route Designation and Travel Management Plan amendments finalized route designation throughout the CDD and gives regulatory authority to sign the open route network. The NEPA analysis are included in the above mentioned documents for the proposed activities and physical impacts. The NFO is requesting assistance with labor, supplies, and equipment in order to complete those activities and to provide general maintenance to facilities. Physical impacts not covered will be analyzed and evaluated in a site-specific document.

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Ground Operations Departmental Categorical Exclusion](#)

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APP # 700207

1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☒ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☐ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
☒ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
☒ Potential trespass (2 points)
☒ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Failure to complete the project would result in continued OHV intrusion into wilderness, negative impact to cultural sites, damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat, and lead to potential trespass, specifically in the Turtle Mountains, Stepladder Mountains, Dead Mountains Wildernesses.

Barriers, route signage, on the ground interpretive material, and educational presentations are all proven methods of helping the public understand the importance of the land. These programs also protect Cultural sites, species habitat, and private lands.

Unmarked routes and unmaintained barriers encourage irresponsible OHV riding and lend to the concept that there are no rules, and no consequence for misbehavior. Maintaining and monitoring barriers, route signage, and targeting responsible OHV messages to the public help stem improper OHV behaviors, provide guidance and direction, and help educate recreationist to California OHV laws.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 10

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
☐ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
☒ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The NFO Ground Operations project would sustain OHV opportunities and maintaining trail or road tread, providing traffic control and/or educational signage, maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc), and providing varied levels of riding difficulty by providing signed designated open routes, and educational materials on the ground and through presentations to the public.

Route identification sign will be places on designated the open routes, showing the number, difficulty rating symbol, and directional arrow at route intersections and access points from major roadways. Educational material, presentations and Kiosks will provide interpretative information, OHV regulations, desert safety tips, and area specific maps. Tread lightly and Trail Right of Way Ethics will be covered.

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The NFO makes every attempt to involve the community, general and specific interested parties, and stakeholders in all decisions on public lands. The projects explained in the Ground Operations grant is a continuation of the 5 year plan developed in conjunction with the public in 2006 to address travel management needs, conform to polices, and provide a safer and more informative OHV experience. Public meetings at the community center and with several interest groups to discuss the plan and seek advice from recreationist on how to improve OHV and non-OHV desert experiences.

Public involvement efforts in the NFO include sending out letters, published links and information on BLM State and local Field Office websites, placing notices in newspapers and through meetings and phone calls with individual organizations and interested groups. Interested parties and groups, outside of the local area or unable to attend public meetings were sent letters, or called asking them to review the proposals and submit com

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points)
- ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
- ☐ 1 (1 point)
- ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Partners associated with the Needles Field Office are, Friends of Ivanpah, The Wilderness Society , Mojave National Preserve , Parker Dam School, Needles, Kingman, and Bull Head School Districts, Bull Head, and Havasu 4 wheeler club, and the Needles, Bull Head, and Havasu Gem and Minerals Clubs. The Rotary International Needles Chapter also provides support to the volunteer program through sponsorships and fellowship.

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 4

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
- ☐ Protecting water quality (1 point)
- ☐ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)

- ☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)
- ☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
- ☒ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
- ☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

a. Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use

The NFO maintains Physical barriers to control OHV use by continued implementation of the travel management plan by signing the open route network and providing maintenance to kiosks, and existing barriers. Target areas surround the Turtle Mountains, Stepladder Mountains, Dead Mountains Wilderness, Sacramento Mountains, eastern Ward Valley, and Piute Valley.

b. Protecting special-status species

Special-status species are protected by updating informational kiosks, educating the public on the potential problems, and identifying the proper routes to drive, which increase visitor enjoyment and help to protect special-status species.

c. Providing sanitary facilities

Sanitary facilities are provided at the Desert Information Center located in the Field Office (flush facility) at Amboy Crater (vault toilet) and at the Horse Thief Springs Camp (vault toilet).

d. Protecting cultural site(s)

The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural reso

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 3

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☒ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point) [Office supplies, Partisapation water bottles and pencils,]

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies by seeking to use alternative fuel vehicles and equipment when renting items for projects and evaluation of the availability of alternative fuel vehicles when purchasing new or replacements.

The NFO uses solar panels now to power wildlife water and is installing solar trickle chargers on the OHV trailer to provide a renewable energy source to the ATV, motor cycles, and the requested UTV.

When available the NFO will always use low volatile organic compound emission paint, sealants, and biodegradable chemicals. Vault toilet provide low flow and bio enhanced degradable septic, which reduces the frequency of pumping. All government facilities are required to provide efficient landscaping and sites in the field are designed to blend into the natural environment.

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camping | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian trails |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) [Hunting, Rock collecting, Photography, Land sailing,] | |